

**Testimony of
Carmine Castiglione**

Owner: Garden Brook Residential Care Home & Victorian Gardens Residential Care Home
Concerning

*Section 12 of H.B. No. 5020 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH.
Public Health Committee Public Hearing, March 6, 2020*

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, Senator Somers, Representative Petit, and Esteemed Members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding Section 12 of House Bill 5020- An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Regarding Public Health.

My name is Carmine Castiglione and I am the owner / Manager of Garden Brook RCH located in Watertown and Victorian Gardens RCH in Plainville, Ct. Our homes have a maximum total of 46 residents and provide services for clients with mental disabilities, the elderly, previously homeless clients and clients who are not capable of living alone and in need of some type of supervision and assistance.

I am testifying today to raise my concerns about Section 12 of HB5020 regarding discharges for residential care homes.

I will keep this short and brief. I strongly believe changing the discharge process would be absolutely dangerous to the resident, other residents, staff, visitors and the community in general.

Just imagine (as one example) one of your loved ones being in a residential care home and another client wishes to smoke in his or her room knowing that the discharge process could take months. Would you want your loved one living in this type of environment? The answer is simple, of course not. In discussing this proposed legislation with some of the residents in my locations they believe it is "insane" (their word not mine) **Please see attached letter from our president of Resident Council**

The residents would like to know that they are in a safe home and if someone decides to be abusive towards them, begins using drugs, creates a hostile / unsafe environment or becomes a danger to themselves or others, that there is a process that is not so prolonged that it puts them or others in danger.

The goal is to keep residents safe, not put them in danger. **This proposed legislation has no logic.** As I have previously stated, no owner would inappropriately discharge or attempt to discharge a resident who is suited for this type of living. Our success is based on keeping our residential care home occupied, not empty. We would like all of our residents to be safe at all times. **This legislation protects no one!**

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This goes beyond financial problems for the facility, the people that would suffer the most from this legislation is the residents, again, the most vulnerable. Who is looking out for their best interest? Hopefully, this committee will see the negative impact this legislation will have if passed.

I invite all committee members to visit our communities to talk to our residents. Clearly the overwhelming majority would state passing this legislation would make them feel unsafe and it is in the best interest of no one.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

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My name is Diarra Fitzpatrick and I am a resident living at Victoria Gardens in Plainville, Ct. I have been living here for five years and have been the president of the resident council for the past two years. It has been brought to my attention that the legislation wants to make it more difficult to discharge residents that are disruptive and dangerous. In speaking with other residents here we felt that we were made aware of the rules and was expected of us here as residents when we were accepted here to live we all had an agreement which we needed to sign to live here and keep us safe. These rules for our safety and this gave them the authority to discharge us immediately if not followed.

One of these rules was smoking. There is no smoking in our rooms or anywhere else in the building. We have a designated area which they built us a gazebo. The second rule is no alcohol beverages are to be consumed in the building.

or anywhere on the property. Next is no tolerance for physical or verbal abuse. Violence of any sort is immediate discharge, this is not for the residents only, this is to keep our staff safe. So by hearing these you should see the dangers in not following these three rules alone. Fire caused by smoking can injure or kill someone plus be a factor in destroying our home. Alcohol is a mood changer especially with residents taking meds, this also could cause themselves or other residents bodily harm. The last one is self explanatory you cannot trust a person who gets that angry that they are threatening.

I know that our families placed us here to be safe and enjoy our home, not have to worry about their love one being injured or accidentally killed by ~~some~~ some stupid or violent act due drinking or anger.

Ask yourself would you want to place a loved one in a residential

home and go to work or best one
day and receive a call that 94 year
old mother had died in a fire
or reckless incident caused by
drinking or anger. Our families
don't want that call.

Dianra Fitzpatrick
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